

bottoms of the mountains on the western edge of the Colorado Desert ranging from the San Jacinto Mts. in Riverside Co., California, southward through San Diego Co. to the mountains of northern Lower California. The pubescence which marks this variant is stellate in character (as is usual in the genus) and forms a felt-like covering on branchlets, petioles, and lower sides of leaves. This dense and uniform pubescence is remarkably persistent, for leaves three years old are frequently as densely hairy beneath as the lower surfaces of leaves of the current season. Along the western bounds of its distribution intergrades are to be found between var. *oxyadenia* and the type of *Q. agrifolia* with glabrous or very sparsely stellate-pubescent leaves which is common in the lower hills and valleys of southern California. These intermediates are marked by noticeably stellate-pubescent leaves and branchlets but the hairs are neither so numerous nor so persistent as in var. *oxyadenia*. Thus on hillsides at the Henshaw Dam on the San Luis Rey River typical specimens of var. *oxyadenia* were collected (J. T. Howell no. 4844), in the canyon of the San Luis Rey 6 miles west of Henshaw Dam (J. T. Howell no. 4853) a specimen intermediate in character was collected, while at Pala Summit still further west the form of *Q. agrifolia* usual at low altitudes in southern California was seen. Other collections are: "mountains between El Centro and San Diego", E. A. Zemcuznikov in 1929; dry valley bottom, 12 miles south of Warner's Hot Springs, San Diego Co., J. T. Howell no. 3264; common along washes, Vandeventer Flat, San Jacinto Mts., Riverside Co., Munz no. 5955 (Herb. Univ. Calif.); Santa Cruz Creek, Lower California, T. S. Brandegee in 1893 (at least as to branchlet just below the sheet-number 119133, Herb. Univ. Calif.); 15 to 20 miles east of Ensenada on road to Ojos Negros, Lower California, Wiggins and Gillespie no. 4053 (intergrade to *Q. agrifolia*, Herb. Calif. Acad. Sci.)¹.

THE ANNUAL DINNER FOR 1931

The annual dinner meeting of the California Botanical Society was held in the Rockefeller International House, University of California, Berkeley, on the evening of March 7, 1931. Doctor George J. Peirce of Stanford University, President of the Society, presided as toastmaster. During the course of the dinner musical numbers were presented under the direction of Mr. W. W. Carruth. A notice of the life and work of Dr. P. B. Kennedy, a former president of the Society, written by Dr. W. L. Jepson, was read in Dr. Jepson's absence by Dr. Peirce. There was also read by Professor H. E. Minn an interesting excerpt from one of Mrs. Ynes Mexia's letters written while botanizing in the tropical forests of Brazil. Following the dinner, Dr. Carlton R. Ball, gave the principal address of the evening on "Some Interesting Facts about Willows." In connection

¹ Unless otherwise noted, the specimens cited are in the herbarium of the California Academy of Sciences.

with his lecture he exhibited herbarium specimens of rare and interesting willows which grow in California. Doctor Ball is at the University of California this year as Research Associate in a Survey of Agricultural Activities, Bureau of Public Administration, Department of Political Science.

Mention of the proposed incorporation of the Society formed a feature of the programme and announcements made by Dr. Peirce were received with interest. He spoke on the advantages and the desirability of incorporation and named a committee to make the necessary arrangements for the change of the present Society to one having legal rights and legal coherency.

The arrangements for the evening were made by the dinner committee, Mr. H. L. Mason, chairman, Mr. H. E. McMinn, and Miss Lucile Roush. The floral decorations of budding *Salix*, fruiting *Equisetum*, and starry-flowered *Veratrum* provided by the committee were enhanced by the addition of some rare and beautiful types of *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus* brought from the vicinity of Santa Rosa by Mr. Milo S. Baker.—JOHN THOMAS HOWELL.

NOTES AND NEWS

Professor A. C. Noé of the Department of Palaeontology, University of Chicago, lectured September 22 at the University of California on his investigations of the floras of the coal measures of Illinois.

Under the title "Important Browse Plants" the United States Department of Agriculture has issued a paper (Misc. Publ. 101) by W. A. Dayton as valuable as it is interesting on browse shrubs and woody plants. It is illustrated by 45 figures, and contains 213 pages and a bibliography.

The most recent issue of "Contributions from the Dudley Herbarium" of Stanford University is a systematic paper of 170 pages by G. T. Benson on "The trees and shrubs of western Oregon". Dr. LeRoy Abrams contributes a foreword on the fair promise of the young author who died April 16, 1928.

On July 25 Miss Alice Eastwood, Curator of the Herbarium, California Academy of Sciences, was struck by an automobile in San Francisco. She was badly bruised and a bone in her left knee was broken. The injuries are being auspiciously mended in a San Francisco hospital. Undoubtedly Miss Eastwood's courage and high spirits will aid in hastening complete recovery.—W. L. J.

Mr. John Thomas Howell, Associate Curator of the California Academy of Sciences Herbarium, has returned from a collecting trip to Oregon, Washington and Vancouver Island, thence east to Calgary, in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Elliott of Stavenage, England. He collected over 1500 specimens of vascular plants, besides many mosses and liverworts.